

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7088

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 1734

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PCOV; HA

SUBJECT: MINOR CABINET CHANGE IN HAITI: JUSTICE MINISTER
REPLACED

1. GOH OCTOBER 4 ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF AURELIEN C. JEANTY AS NEW SECSTATE FOR JUSTICE, REPLACING FOURNIER FORTUNE. FORTUNE AT SAME TIME WAS APPOINTED CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COUR DE CASSATION (HAITI'S SUPREME COURT), A POSITION VACANT SINCE THE DEATH OF THE FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE IN AUGUST.

2. JEANTY, 45 YEARS OLD, IS A LAWYER, A SPECIALIST IN COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, AND FORMER ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL TAX OFFICE. HE REPRESENTED THE GOH AND HAITIAN BAR ASSOCIATION AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON PEACE THROUGH LAW HELD IN ABIDJAN THIS PAST AUGUST. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, JEANTY HAS EXCELLENT REPUTATION AS A COMPETENT, ETHICAL LAWYER AND AS AN HONEST ADMINISTRATOR WHILE IN THE TAX OFFICE. JEANTY IS GENERALLY VIEWED MORE AS A LEGAL SPECIALIST AND BUREAUCRAT THAN AS A POLITICAL FIGURE. FURTHER BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOLLOWS.

COMMENT: LATEST CABINET CHANGE WAS MINOR AND APPARENTLY PROMPTED ONLY BY THE ELEVATION OF FORMER JUSTICE MINISTER FORTUNE, AN OLD FRIEND OF THE DUVALIER FAMILY, TO FILL VACANT PRESIDENCY OF THE COUR DE CASSATION.

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